

13 June 1978

MR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

OLC #78-2355

SUBJECT: Conversation with SSCI Staffer Hal Ford

1. Mr. Ford sought me out, apparently to determine my general frame of mind regarding CIA/SSCI relations. (I had spoken to Mr. Ford frankly on 1 June in the wake of the New York Times article by Seymour Hersh which represented damaging leaks from the SSCI.)

2. I said that my frame of mind had improved somewhat since I had seen what I considered to be a very professional piece of work by SSCI staffer Mike Epstein on KCIA. I made the point that each solid piece of work like that builds up a precedent which can be pointed to as we try to make the oversight process more beneficial to all involved. Mr. Ford replied that he had conveyed my strong feelings to Bill Miller after the 1 June meeting and that Miller's only overt reaction had been "a sense of dismay" about the leaks which the Hersh article represented. Mr. Ford said the SSCI remains mystified as to how these leaks occurred.

3. Mr. Ford passed on the following additional points:

a. Bill Miller may well be leaving as SSCI Staff Director in the fairly near future. Mr. Ford mentioned as possible replacements Tom Connaughton and John Elliff. In describing both men, Mr. Ford appeared to be somewhat more positive about Tom Connaughton, whom he described as "in the Bill Miller mold," balanced and with a good sense of humor. Both men have been on Senator Bayh's staff, and both have strong interest in preserving the rights of U.S. citizens.

b. David Bushong has been appointed Minority Counsel of the SSCI.

c. Mr. Ford and others who have been studying the Frank Snepp allegations are now asking to see court depositions resulting from the Snepp trial. The reading of these depositions will delay the submission of the report. Mr. Ford indicated that one of the main concerns in his report will be how well or how badly the dissent and grievance channels of CIA functioned in the wake of the Vietnam war.

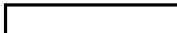
4. Mr. Ford said that his newest inquiry is concerned with the NIO system. At this point he has the general feeling that the ideal approach in the writing of estimates may lie somewhere between the ~~new~~ defunct Board of Estimates approach which may have been too collegial and the NIO approach which may be too individualistic.

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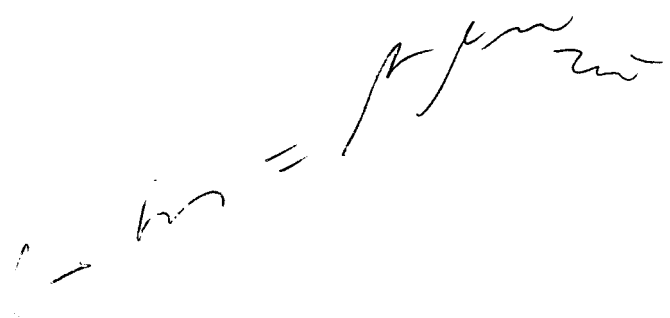
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15 JUN 1978

TO : Mr. Cary XXXXX MILLER		DATE OF REQUEST
FROM : DFM		SUSPENSE DATE
SUBJECT: 		
NOTES FYI: Note especially paragraph 3a. 		
COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices)		
NAME	OFFICE	DATE
NAME	OFFICE	DATE
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ACTION REQUIRED BY GLC		